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County Borough of West Bromwich



Annual Report

ON THE

Health of

West Bromwich

FOR

1950

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

at 31st December 1950.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman : Alderman A. GREEN

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Alderman MRS. A. E. CALDWELL

Councillor MRS. R. PARFITT

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Alderman MRS. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

Councillor MRS. V. M. STEED

Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.

Councillor MRS. G. WILKES, J.P.

Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

Co-opted Members

DR. J. M. MITCHELL

DR. D. SAKLATVALA

MR. L. H. TIMMINS

MR. W. E. WIMBERGER

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor MRS. V. M. STEED

Deputy Chairman : Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

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Alderman MRS. A. E. CALDWELL

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Alderman J. T. H. DAVIES, J.P.

Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT

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Councillor MRS. G. WILKES, J.P.

Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, O.B.E., J.P.

DR. D. SAKLATVALA

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Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

Alderman MRS. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.

Councillor MRS. V. M. STEED

Councillor MRS. M. EVITTS

DR. J. M. MITCHELL

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Alderman MRS. A. E. CALDWELL

Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL,

Alderman MRS. E. A. SMALLMAN, J.P.

O.B.E., J.P.

Councillor R. BAILEY

Councillor MRS. V. M. STEED

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H. L.R.C.P.
Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health	CLIFFORD W. D. COLE, M.R.C.S.,
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	W. J. MORRISSEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health (part-time)	MARGARET A. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Dental Officer	G. J. S. LITTLEFIELD, L.D.S.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Food and Drugs, Superintendent of Refuse Removal and Disposal	W. W. FOAKES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, M.Inst. P.C.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector ..	G. H. SHAW, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.
District Sanitary Inspectors ..	F. A. OAKES, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector. F. W. BALL, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, Cert. Smoke Inspector. C. N. JOHNSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. A. W. REEVES, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
Superintendent Health Visitor ..	MISS K. PERRYER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Q.N. Cert.
Health Visitors/School Nurses	MISS M. E. BLAKEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. MISS G. S. GEDRYCH, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (to 31.3.50) MISS M. E. GREASLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. MISS I. JOHN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Q.N. Cert. MISS M. E. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS E. KING, S.R.N.; S.C.M., R.M.P.A., Cert., H.V. Cert. MRS. C. PASKIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. MISS D. I. PEREGRINE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (to 31.8.50) MISS E. RAWSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (to 31.8.50) MISS F. REED, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Pupil Health Visitors	..	..	MISS J. DEAN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (from 18.9.50)
Tuberculosis Visitor and Dispensary Sister	..	..	MISS G. S. GEDRYCH, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (part-time from 22.8.50)
Municipal Midwives	..	..	MRS. J. BILLINGHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M. MRS. E. DODSON, S.C.M. (from 22.2.50) MRS. A. DORAM, S.C.M. MISS F. FORGHAM, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS D. E. HICKMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M. MRS. F. KEYS, S.C.M. (to 21.2.50) MRS. C. LESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS E. NUNN, S.R.N., S.C.M. MRS. J. PICKSTONE, S.C.M. MISS M. PIERCY, S.C.M.
Mental Health Officer	..	..	MISS E. K. HUNTER (to 21.7.50) MISS E. M. APLIN, Social Study Diploma (B'ham), (from 3.7.50)
Duly Authorised Officer	..	..	C. F. WHITEMAN
Superintendent, Akrell Nursing Association..	..	..	MISS M. KEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Matron, Highfields Day Nursery	..	..	MRS. E. HEAVEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.
Administrative Assistant	..	..	A. SHAW
Home Help Organiser	..	..	MRS. J. M. DAY (from 11.9.50)

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the health of West Bromwich for the year 1950.

The Report deals with most of the matters which come within the responsibility of the Health Department and I will here draw your attention only to one or two of the more outstanding events of the year.

The first of these is the dramatic and very gratifying fall in the infant mortality rate. As is well known the infant mortality rate has always been very high in West Bromwich, but for 1950 it dropped from about 50 per thousand live births in 1949 to 30 per thousand live births. In terms of actual infant deaths, this represents the loss of only 47 children aged under one year as compared with 83 in the previous year. I have devoted some little space in the Report to a consideration of the factors which might have been concerned in effecting this reduction. It is sincerely hoped that it will be possible to maintain this improvement in the years to come.

The second incident of importance is that in 1950, for the first time in the history of the Borough, no case of diphtheria was notified and there was therefore no death from this disease.

The full impact of these figures as they apply both to infant deaths and diphtheria can only be fully appreciated by considering the position in years gone by. For instance, in the case of babies under one year :

In 1890	..	371	died
„ 1900	..	439	„
„ 1920	..	259	„
„ 1930	..	111	„
„ 1940	..	103	„

The figures for diphtheria are equally revealing, for in 1890 there were 34 notifications with 14 deaths, and in 1940 there were 119 notifications with 18 deaths.

It will be seen what an improvement there has been in the saving of lives over the years.

Throughout the year, in collaboration with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, considerable attention was given to environmental hygiene, including the prevention of food poisoning and the hygienic preparation of food. The Sanitary Department has also been very active in housing and in the control and supervision of sanitary defects in various districts of the town.

We have again maintained the closest liaison with the other health agencies in the town, particularly the general practitioners with whom our relations are most cordial, and also the Hospital Management Committee and the various hospitals in the town. I should like to thank the local doctors and the staff of the various hospitals for their continued and unfailing help and co-operation.

It is a pleasure again to thank all the members of the staff of the Health Department for their help and support during the year. The work of a health department is based essentially on team work and any results achieved are the outcome of co-operative efforts. I am particularly happy to acknowledge the excellent spirit of co-operation which exists in the Health Department.

I particularly desire to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector for his help and to draw your attention to his Report. The work of the Sanitary Department is seldom revealed in headlines, except, of course, when something goes wrong. We are rarely nowadays affected by epidemics of enteric fever and we, in this town, have been particularly fortunate up to the present in our freedom from food poisoning, although it is well known that food poisoning has increased very markedly throughout the country. The effect of a widespread epidemic of typhoid or an outbreak of food poisoning can have a most serious effect on the economy of the community, apart from the worry, anxiety and distress caused to the unfortunate victims and their families.

Freedom from these diseases has come to be taken for granted, but how often does the man in the street ask himself why it is that we nowadays enjoy comparative immunity from these serious epidemics. One of the main reasons is undoubtedly the preventive medical services exercised through the Public Health Department. The Sanitary Inspectors occupy an honoured and vital place in the Public Health Department and are concerned particularly with the prevention of these and allied diseases. It is unfortunately not widely appreciated that much of the credit for our comparative freedom from these diseases is due to the unremitting and constant work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his District Inspectors, working in close co-operation and accord with their medical colleagues. The importance of the work and the responsibility which rests upon them is very considerable, and I think this should be appreciated. We are, in West Bromwich, fortunate in having most efficient sanitary services and I feel it only right that this should be widely known

I should like again to acknowledge the help I have received from my colleagues in other Corporation Departments, and for their assistance and advice on many matters.

The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee, and also all the other Committees with which on occasions I am concerned, have, as always, been very helpful and given me every possible assistance. It is a pleasure again to record my thanks to them.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.

GENERAL STATISTICS

POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid-1950)	87,910
AREA (Acres)	7,172
NO. OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to rate books — 31st December, 1950)	23,438
RATEABLE VALUE	£438,199
PRODUCT OF Id. RATE (at 31st December, 1950) ..	£1,748
GENERAL RATE (1950-51)	18s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ..	797	710	1,507
Illegitimate ..	36	24	60
Total ..	833	734	1,567

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 17·8.

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ..	19	19	38
Illegitimate ..	2	—	2
Total ..	21	19	40

Rate per 1,000 population = 0·45.

Rate per 1,000 live and still-births = 24·9.

Deaths 952 **Death Rate** .. 10·8

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth 2

Rate per 1,000 live and still-births 1·24

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

All Infants 47	Rate per 1,000 live births ..	30
Legitimate 46	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	31
Illegitimate 1	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	17

Population

The population figure as supplied by the Registrar General for West Bromwich in 1950 was 87,910, which was an increase of more than 1,000 over the previous year.

Births

The number of live births in West Bromwich in 1950 was 1,567, the corresponding figure for the previous year being 1,689. This gave a birth rate for 1950 of 17·8 per 1,000 population, which compared with 15·8 for England and Wales and 17·6 for the great towns. It will be noted that the birth rate for the town dropped about 2 points but that it was still above that for England and Wales and slightly above that for the great towns.

Deaths

The total number of deaths in 1950 was 952 compared with 1,008 in 1949. This gave a death rate of 10·8 for 1950, compared with 11·6 for 1949. The corresponding figures for England and Wales and for the great towns were 11·6 and 12·3 respectively, from which it will be seen that the death rate in West Bromwich was below that in England and Wales and for the combined great towns.

Principal Causes of Death

Heart disease still takes the greatest toll of life and in 1950 there were 256 deaths from this cause as compared with 198 in the previous year. This figure represents a substantial increase over the deaths recorded for the past 10 years. There was also an increase in the number of cancer cases, there being 154 deaths registered from this cause. On the other hand, pneumonia and bronchitis were less prominent and there was a substantial reduction in the number of deaths from this cause, namely 46 from pneumonia and bronchitis and 69 from other respiratory diseases. Intra cranial vascular lesions gave rise to 113 deaths. It is particularly gratifying to note a reduction in the number of deaths from tuberculosis. In the case of the pulmonary form of the disease there were 50 deaths as compared with 66 in the previous year, and in the case of non-pulmonary, 3 as compared with 10. More reference is made to this in the section on tuberculosis. On the other hand it is regrettable to have to record 2 deaths as a result of childbirth.

DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

Principal Causes of Death

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Yearly Aver age
Cancer	112	121	124	132	173	138	145	127	151	154	138
Heart Diseases ..	168	170	148	138	143	161	208	184	198	256	177
Pneumonia ..	74	48	85	56	39	40	66	41	49	46	54
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	108	54	74	88	95	90	115	81	113	69	89
Vascular lesions ..	81	91	79	77	105	99	98	73	112	113	93
Tuberculosis :											
Pulmonary ..	75	65	64	54	54	57	59	63	66	50	61
Non Pulmonary	7	11	7	11	8	9	10	10	10	3	9

Age at Death

The proportion of deaths which occurred in persons 65 years of age and over was 57·56% compared with 52·78% in 1949.

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 39 deaths from violent causes, 7 from suicide, 10 as a result of road accidents and 22 others.

Infant Mortality

In 1950, 47 infants under the age of one year lost their lives as compared with 83 the previous year. This gave an infant mortality rate of 30 per 1,000 live births compared with 49 in 1949. The corresponding rates for England and Wales and the great towns were 29·8 and 33·8 respectively. This reduction represents a most satisfactory result to the efforts which have been made at reducing this figure in previous years, and it is therefore thought desirable to add a somewhat fuller report on the subject.

INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS

1941 — 1950

<i>Year</i>	<i>Under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Infant Death Rate</i>
1941	43	14	28	6	2	93	68
1942	37	12	11	8	4	72	46
1943	38	15	24	8	7	92	55
1944	60	20	29	4	4	117	67
1945	34	13	20	8	5	80	52
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86	50
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
<i>10 years' average</i>	38	15	20	8	4	85	—

INFANT DEATHS, 1950 — CAUSES OF DEATH

(Local Registration)

	<i>Under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total Under 1 Year</i>
Premature Births ..	11	—	—	—	—	11
Congenital Malformations	6	2	—	—	1	9
Pneumonia	—	3	2	2	—	7
Diarrhoea	—	—	1	2	1	4
Bronchitis	—	2	1	—	—	3
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	—	1	—	1	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Defined Diseases ..	5	—	1	1	1	8
Totals	22	9	6	7	3	47

Of these children, 46 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1950

<i>WHEN DEATH OCCURRED</i>										<i>Total Deaths.</i>
<i>1st day</i>	<i>2nd day</i>	<i>3rd day</i>	<i>4th day</i>	<i>5th day</i>	<i>6th day</i>	<i>7th day</i>	<i>1—2 wks.</i>	<i>2—3 wks.</i>	<i>3—4 wks.</i>	<i>under 1 month</i>
6	6	1	1	2	—	—	3	2	1	22

All of these children were legitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases

The total number of infectious disease cases notified in 1950 was 538. This was a reduction of more than 50% compared with 1949 and was accounted for by the marked decrease in the number of cases of measles, which has now developed into a hardy biennial.

There was again slightly increased incidence in whooping cough, whilst scarlet fever remained fairly constant. There was a general increase throughout the country in the incidence of poliomyelitis and in West Bromwich 15 cases were reported. Fortunately, the loss of function in a number of poliomyelitis cases is not likely to be much of a handicap as shown from the following table :—

Notified cases of poliomyelitis	Admitted to hospital	Non para- lytic	Type		
			Paralytic		
			Severe	Mild	Query
15	14	3	7	4	1

On the whole it can be said that West Bromwich escaped very lightly, both as regards the incidence of the disease and the amount of crippling to which it gave rise.

Diphtheria

It was felt desirable after the most careful consideration to suspend temporarily efforts to induce mothers to have their children immunised. This was due to the fact that certain evidence suggested that during the presence of an outbreak of infantile paralysis the injection of diphtheria prophylactics might predispose to the development of the disease, particularly in those muscle groups in or near which the injection had been given. This was a particularly difficult decision to make as the risk of a child developing poliomyelitis if he were given an injection had to be balanced against the risk of his developing diphtheria at some later date if the injections were withheld. West Bromwich had not experienced a very severe incidence of infantile paralysis and so the line taken was a moderate one. The giving of injections was not stopped but no steps were taken to press the parents to have their children immunised and it was made clear to any parent wishing to have his child immunised that there was a risk, although a very small one. In point of fact, the result of the publicity in the press and elsewhere was such that many mothers did not wish to have their children immunised, irrespective of any decision on our part.

(a) **Infectious Disease — Incidence**

	1949	1950
Measles	805	142
Whooping Cough	225	256
Scarlet Fever	94	93
Erysipelas	6	7
Diphtheria	7	—
Meningococcal infection ..	3	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	2	12
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	3
Totals	1,142	514

(b) **Deaths from Infectious Diseases (R.G. Figures)**

	1949	1950
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ..	66	50
Non-Pulmonary ..	10	3
Whooping Cough	6	1
Diphtheria	2	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	2	—
Totals	86	54

(c) **Deaths from Respiratory Diseases (R.G. Figures)**

	1949	1950
Bronchitis	94	51
Pneumonia	49	46
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	19	18
Totals	162	115

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Vaccination against Smallpox

Below are given the numbers of children immunised against diphtheria and vaccinated against smallpox. These represent all age groups and those in which treatment was given by doctors in the public health department and also by general practitioners.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children immunised	..	651
Number of children receiving re-inforcing injections	.. ..	379

It is estimated that the proportion of children in West Bromwich immunised against diphtheria is now 71·2%.

Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons vaccinated	..	218
Number of persons re-vaccinated	..	14

Venereal Diseases

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease from West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below.

				Birmingham	Dudley	Total
Syphilis	..	..	..	5	—	5
Gonorrhoea		..	..	10	1	11
Conditions other than venereal	..			74	7	81
Total cases	..	..	..	89	8	97

It will be noted that there was again a slight decrease in the number of cases of venereal disease but, as pointed out in last year's report, it is doubtful whether these figures can be taken as being accurate.

Tuberculosis

I am indebted to Dr. Cole for the information contained in the following note.

The facilities offered by the Health Department and the Chest Clinic differed in no way from those described in previous years. One point of note, however, was that the Chest Clinic was redecorated and this improved the appearance of the premises very considerably.

The figures for 1950 are given in the attached tables and some comment on them might be desirable. The number of patients referred to the Chest Clinic for investigation and treatment by the general practitioners and the hospitals was 529, which was a 12% increase in the number of cases referred in the previous year. Of this total, 138 cases were diagnosed as tuberculosis — 122 pulmonary and 16 non-pulmonary. This showed a reduction of just over one-third of the number of cases notified in 1949, which paralleled the general trend throughout the country. For instance, in the British Isles in 1950 there was approximately a 20% drop in the number of cases of notified tuberculosis ; in West Bromwich this decrease amounted to about 30%.

During the year 56 persons died of tuberculosis, 52 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. The number of patients on the notification register was 902 at 31st December, 1950, with a further 95 cases under observation or in course of diagnosis. The number of consultations fell slightly from 2,145 to 2,140, but the number of examinations increased by 200 to 3,537.

The work of the clinic was considerably handicapped by the inability to fill the appointment of Tuberculosis Visitor following the resignation of the previous holder of the post. Although the position was widely advertised it was not filled, with the result that for a very large part of the year the visiting of tuberculous patients had to be done as best it could by the Health Visitors who already were much depleted in numbers and occupied with more work than they could adequately carry out. Hence the number of visits to cases of tuberculosis amounted during the year to only 311.

It is interesting to consider the reasons for the decline in the number of cases of tuberculosis and also in the number of deaths from the disease. To answer these queries adequately would need a detailed epidemiological study, but two possibilities come to mind at once. Firstly, the introduction of the new drugs, namely, streptomycin and para-aminosalicylic acid (P.S.A.) have undoubtedly influenced the death rate from the disease. It may also have had the effect of rendering non-infectious those cases which formerly would have been able to spread the disease in the community, although having regard to the short time that the drugs have been in use it is a little doubtful whether this could have had such an immediate effect. The reason for the fall in notifications is therefore a little more difficult to understand. It is certainly the case that a good deal is done in this town by way of rehousing tuberculous families, but it is very unlikely that the extent to which this has been done is altogether responsible for the very marked reduction. Whatever the real reasons are it is to be hoped that they mean a permanent reduction and not a mere temporary improvement.

Against the improvement in the total figures is the possibility that tuberculosis seems to be changing its age incidence. In 1950, at any rate, the majority of female cases came from the age group 14-23, while most of the male cases fell into the age group 34-45, which is a very important and productive period of life.

Special attention was paid to what appeared to be an increased amount of tuberculosis in one of the schools of the town, but this matter has been reported separately in the School Health Report.

The after-care of tuberculous patients continued throughout the year with the assistance of the Voluntary Care Committee, but again this work was hampered by the comparatively little visiting of tuberculous patients which was possible. Funds, however, were always available and the co-operation and assistance received from Mr. Keith Jones, Honorary Secretary of the Voluntary Care Committee, could not have been improved upon. I should like to take the opportunity of thanking Mr. Keith Jones, and also Mr. Barker, the Honorary Treasurer of the Voluntary Care Committee, for the continued and valuable assistance they rendered throughout the year. On the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Barker, I should like to place on record the indebtedness of a very large number of tuberculous patients and families to him over the past 17 years. He has been Honorary Treasurer of the Voluntary Care Committee since its inauguration and his kindness and humanitarian outlook, no less than the efficient way in which he has dealt with the funds of the Committee, have been outstanding.

The work of the After-Care Committee was also handicapped by our inability to appoint a Social Worker. This meant that while a great deal was done for tuberculous patients by way of providing for their wants, little was possible in the way of rehabilitation and follow up, although a large number of our tuberculous patients were found employment.

In addition to the Voluntary Care Committee we again received great help from the Galatea Fund, again through the good offices of Mr. Barker who is its treasurer, and the Soroptimists Club. The National Assistance Board Area Office and its Officers were, as usual, very kind, and continued to take a broad-minded view of the needs of the patients.

I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the staff of the clinic for the excellent way in which they carried out their duties during the year.

At the time of writing, the Chest Clinic has moved from its premises on the ground floor of the Health Department to its new quarters in the Heath Lane Hospital. It is sincerely hoped that this geographical division will not mean any division of interests as between the local health authority and the Management Committee. The welfare of tuberculous patients and the prevention of the disease, on the one hand, and the treatment of the disease on the other, must be looked upon not as two separate compartments but as a closely integrated whole and it is earnestly hoped that the effect of the change will not in any way lessen the work which is being done for the prevention of tuberculosis but rather improve it. Thus will result a further decline, both in the incidence of the disease and in its toll of deaths, in the years to come.

Rate of Incidence of Tuberculosis (Primary Notifications)

Year	Pulm.	Non Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand Population		
				Pulm.	Non Pulm.	Total
1941	118	18	136	1.3	0.15	1.45
1942	139	14	153	1.77	0.18	1.95
1943	156	18	174	1.99	0.23	2.22
1944	160	11	171	2.04	0.14	2.18
1945	154	13	167	1.91	0.16	2.07
1946	150	11	161	1.81	0.13	1.94
1947	111	9	120	1.32	0.11	1.43
1948	149	21	170	1.73	0.24	1.97
1949	190	13	203	2.19	0.15	2.34
1950	122	16	138	1.39	0.18	1.57

Comparative Tables of Deaths and Death Rates

Year	Pulm.	Non Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand Population		
				Pulm.	Non Pulm.	Total
1941	75	7	82	0.95	0.09	1.04
1942	65	11	76	0.81	0.14	0.95
1943	64	7	71	0.80	0.09	0.89
1944	54	11	65	0.69	0.14	0.83
1945	54	8	62	0.68	0.10	0.78
1946	57	9	66	0.69	0.11	0.80
1947	59	10	69	0.70	0.12	0.82
1948	63	10	73	0.73	0.12	0.85
1949	66	10	76	0.76	0.12	0.88
1950	50	3	53	0.58	0.03	0.61

Work of Chest Clinic

The numbers of cases on the Chest Clinic and Notification Registers during the past ten years are given below in the following table.

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>No. on Notif'n Register</i>	<i>No. on Chest Clinic Register</i>	<i>No. of Exams.</i>	<i>No. of Consultations</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home visits by Nurses</i>
1941	114	444	306	783	928	1,711	862
1942	153	510	376	1,039	1,084	2,123	932
1943	174	517	461	1,233	1,710	2,943	862
1944	171	597	530	1,271	2,312	3,583	1,017
1945	167	655	697	1,590	2,433	4,023	1,657
1946	161	705	856	1,785	2,842	4,627	2,008
1947	120	716	838	1,669	2,270	3,939	2,053
1948	171	618	970	1,847	1,901	3,748	2,647
1949	203	860	1,234	3,323	2,245	5,568	2,118
1950	138	902	1,497	3,537	2,140	5,677	311

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Reduction of Infant Mortality

In each of my previous Annual Reports I have made reference to the high infant mortality rate in West Bromwich and the fact that from this point of view the town was a black spot. I have also made some observations on the efforts being made to reduce this high figure and to the difficulties of doing so. It is therefore extremely gratifying to report that in 1950 our object was to a certain extent attained, for there were only 47 infant deaths in West Bromwich as compared with 83 in the previous year. This represents a reduction in the infant mortality rate from 49 per 1,000 live births to 30, which is by far the lowest figure ever experienced in West Bromwich and is now about the same as that for the country as a whole but below that for the other great towns.

While this figure, naturally, must give satisfaction to the Health Department and to the Health Committee, it must be accepted with a certain degree of caution. Is this figure merely a temporary reduction or is it something which will remain permanently? Only time will answer this question but we hope it will be permanent and we shall certainly direct our efforts towards achieving this end. The importance of this figure is that we do know that a low infant mortality rate is achievable in a heavy industrial town like West Bromwich.

It is interesting to speculate on the causes of this reduction as a guide to our future efforts. I use the word "speculate" advisedly, for the infant mortality rate is influenced by a large number of factors operating in the town. Moreover, the actual numbers involved are small for accurate statistical investigation and my previous experience from an investigation of this type has shown me that there is little to be gained by a really careful and accurate statistical scrutiny of the figures. Nevertheless, such as they are, they do reveal one or two interesting points.

For instance, the main reduction has been effected in the first six months of life as compared with the previous year. In 1949 there were 9 deaths in the period 6 months to a year, and 10 in 1950. The neo-natal period, that is to say, the first month of life, is a particularly testing time and is an indication of the care which a baby receives. In 1949 there were 31 deaths in this period and only 22 in 1950. As regards neo-natal deaths, it is interesting to look at the ages on which the deaths occurred. Of the 31 deaths in the first month of life in 1949, 19 occurred on the first day, whereas there were only 6 on the first day in 1950. In the second, third and fourth weeks in 1949 there were 6 deaths,

and during the same period in 1950 there were also 6 deaths, so that a big improvement has occurred in deaths in the first week of life. These figures suggest that the improvement has occurred in very young children, that is to say, those in the first month of life, particularly those in the first week of life.

Looking at the Table on Page 10 and comparing the figures with the previous year is also instructive. There was a slight reduction in deaths from prematurity but the most marked reduction is in those cases due to congenital malformations, that is to say, 9 as compared with 23. There is also a very marked reduction in the number of deaths due to diarrhoea — 4 as compared with 17. It is a little difficult to interpret these figures. It may be that the improvement in the deaths from congenital malformations and birth injuries is a matter of good fortune which will not be experienced in future years. On the other hand again, the reduction in deaths due to diarrhoea may also be due to good fortune although it does tend to point to some improvement in environmental conditions and the handling of the child.

This somewhat cursory survey of these statistics does help to direct one's attention to some of the causes of the reduction in 1950, particularly against a background of what one knows to have taken place in the development of the services in question.

The following are some of the causes which probably helped, set out by no means in order of importance.

(1) The Health Visiting Service.

This is the service to which one looks in the first instance to effect a reduction in the infant mortality rate and this, in fact, has been one of the main objects of the work of the Health Visitors in the past four years. They have directed their efforts particularly to the care of young babies and to instructing the mothers in infant and child welfare and it may well be that at long last their efforts over a period of years are beginning to bear fruit.

(2) There has been a strengthening of the curative pædiatric services in the town. The appointment of a Pædiatric Registrar jointly to the Children's Department at the two hospitals, and the construction of cubicle accommodation in both pædiatric units, must have gone a long way to increase the chances of a sick child surviving.

(3) The housing programme, although a long way from achieving its object, has undoubtedly already had the effect

of an improvement in the living conditions of many people. It may be that the better environmental conditions of many people, particularly those in the child rearing period of life, has helped to bring about this improvement.

- (4) There has been an increase in the number of doctors in the town over the past two or three years and this may well be one factor which has contributed to this good result.

These are some of the causes which it seems to me may have been operating in 1950 to have effected this dramatic improvement in the infant mortality rate. It is impossible to allocate any particular credit for the achievement and I think that everybody concerned should receive it with a considerable measure of satisfaction. It is hoped that this figure will be a permanent reduction, but we shall not be surprised and certainly not disheartened if this should not be the case; in fact, a slight regression in the following years might even be expected, but the main thing is that a low infant mortality rate has been possible in this town and our efforts will now be directed towards keeping it low and reducing it even lower.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

The Infant Welfare Clinics were again well attended. The new Infant Welfare Clinic on the Tanhouse Estate was opened in July by Alderman Mrs. E. A. Smallman who, in her remarks, made reference to the many changes she had seen in her long experience in the infant welfare service of the town. This clinic, which was very carefully planned and thought out, has proved in fact to be very easily worked and undoubtedly is an important addition to our infant welfare services.

Attendances at the ante-natal clinics have been maintained and we are not aware of any very marked reduction as a result of the facilities available under the National Health Services general medical arrangements.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

During the year 123 children attended for artificial sunlight, making a total of 2,353 attendances.

Premature Babies

There has been little change in the arrangements for the care of premature babies as described in previous reports. The figures below give some indication of the high standard of care received by premature babies born and nursed at home. This nursing is, of course, in the hands of the municipal midwives and it reflects every credit on their skill.

During the year 91 premature births were notified, 27 being born at home and 64 in hospitals and nursing homes. Of those born and nursed entirely at home, one died during the first 24 hours and 24 were surviving at the end of a month. Of the hospital and nursing home cases, 2 died during the first 24 hours and 54 survived at the end of a month.

Illegitimate Children

Our arrangements with the Lichfield Diocesan Moral Welfare Association continued and we again received considerable help from Miss Lavender, the Moral Welfare Worker, who reported as follows on the year's work :—

During the year 22 expectant mothers were interviewed.

Three cases were referred to other organisations or areas.

Six girls entered suitable Mother and Baby Homes for a period of stay, before and after confinement.

Advice was given in two preventive cases.

Three babies were placed with a view to adoption.

Two Affiliation Orders were made.

The period of residence in Mother and Baby Homes for the year was 75 weeks.

Adoption of Children — Infant Life Protection

The functions with regard to the adoption of children and infant life protection under the Public Health Act, which functions have formerly been carried out by the Public Health Department's staff, were transferred to the Children's Department during the year.

In July, a joint circular from the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education was received, regarding children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes. This was a problem which had been giving rise to considerable anxiety and the proposals suggested in the circular were welcomed as a means of co-ordinating this important work and placing the responsibility definitely on one person. The whole subject was very carefully considered by all the Officers and Committees concerned and it was ultimately decided that the Medical Officer of Health should be designated the Officer responsible for this work. More reference is made to this matter in the section on problem families with which it is closely inter-related.

Highfields Day Nursery

During 1950 considerable structural alterations were undertaken in the nursery buildings and consequent redecoration both internally and externally, with the result that the premises are now much more attractive than was the case formerly. The construction of the Memorial Gardens on the large area which was formerly derelict land very substantially improved the site in front of the nursery. An area was made available and fenced off for use as a playground for the children and, as our staff increased, so we were able to take in larger numbers of children.

During the year the Matron and Staff Nurses were able to attend Refresher Courses.

The Matron and the staff continued to do excellent work and I should like to thank them for the conscientious way in which they cared for the children.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease in the nursery.

Appended is a summary of the attendances :—

	Under 2 years	2 — 5 years
Total attendances for the year ..	2,136	5,231
Average attendances per day ..	8	21

Nursing Homes

The position in so far as nursing homes was concerned remained the same as in 1949, there being four general nursing homes only.

The medical and nursing staff of the Health Department carried out routine visits throughout the year and were invariably received in a co-operative manner.

Midwifery

The work of the midwives has been fully described in previous reports and there is little fresh to report in regard to the work in 1950.

During the year, however, negotiations were opened with a view to the establishment of a Part II Training School for training pupil midwives for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board and we were finally approved for this purpose although up to the moment we have not received any students.

It will be recalled that in my last report I made reference to a little scheme which we devised to foster liaison between the doctor whom a patient had engaged and the midwife attending her in the confinement. It will be recalled that a small card was designed which fitted under the form which a general practitioner completes when he undertakes to provide maternity services. By using carbon paper only one writing operation is necessary, and the card, duly completed, is taken by the patient to the midwife whom she books. It is gratifying to note that the usefulness of this little scheme has become recognised beyond West Bromwich and we have had a number of requests for information as to how it works, and I believe that it has been adopted with slight modifications in a number of other areas.

I would like to take the opportunity of again thanking the midwives for their work and conscientious application to their duties.

Problem Families

In my report for 1949 I devoted some remarks to the question of problem families to which a good deal of attention has been paid in the past few years. There is little I can add to what I have said in my previous reports except to reiterate that the Health Department, particularly through the Health Visitors, pays special attention to these families in the hope of preventing conditions becoming worse and of improving bad conditions. On the whole the matter is fraught with difficulties and what the final solution will be is uncertain. Measures which have been taken in some areas by means of special units known as " Family Service Units " to attempt the rehabilitation of problem families have undoubtedly met with considerable success, but whether this is a method which can be applied generally is uncertain. For the present, therefore, our policy is to do all we can to improve the ways of living of these families and give special attention to the children. It is work which is exacting and time-consuming, especially when we are faced with the shortage of Health Visitors.

HOME NURSING, CARE AND SERVICE

The work of the Home Nursing Service, as the figures below show, increased during the year, and since the service was taken over by the Health Department the amount of work has about doubled.

I should like to thank Miss Key, the Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service, for the very considerable help she has given in the face of many difficulties. These difficulties were concerned mainly with our inability to recruit resident nursing staff, with the result that we had to depend entirely on non-resident staff and part-time workers. The fact that so much work was accomplished so carefully is a tribute to the effective way in which the staff carried out their duties and I should like to thank them for their help.

The difficulty of recruiting resident nursing staff has given rise to a serious administrative problem which I understand is by no means confined to West Bromwich. The District Nursing Association traditionally was run from District Nurses Homes where the district nurses lived and from which they worked. The difficulty of recruiting nurses, particularly district nurses, has radically altered the way in which the service can be run and has resulted in the necessity for maintaining large District Nurses Homes with perhaps only one or two residents but with the consequent very heavy overhead expenses and up-keep charges. The Health Committee have given a good deal of consideration to this problem but at the time of writing no final decision has been taken except that it does seem that it is hardly justifiable to maintain a large expensive Nurses Home for only one or perhaps two resident nursing staff. The ultimate solution would appear to be to run the Home Nursing Service in much the same way as the Midwifery Service. That is to say, it could be administered direct from the Health Department, office accommodation being made available for the Matron or Superintendent, and that suitable accommodation should be made available for the district nurses in the same way as for the Municipal Midwives. Such accommodation, however, need not be in the nature of houses in different areas of the town but could quite well take the form of small self-contained flats or flatlets. At the present time such a scheme is being considered by the Health Committee.

I am indebted to Miss Key, the Superintendent, for the following observations on the year's work.

The following is a classified list of cases visited during 1950 :

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	47
Heart	..	..	..	..	..	56
Hemiplegia	..	..	..	..	..	49
Pneumonia and other chest complaints						35
Rheumatism	..	..	..	..	..	17
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	15
Surgical cases	..	..	..	..	..	51
Other medical cases	..	..	..	..	..	254
Total number of patients visited						524
Number of visits paid ..						18,329

Discharges :

Convalescents	..	..	..	..	174
Transferred to hospital	..	..	..	..	73
Deaths	..	..	..	..	150
Other causes	..	..	..	..	19

The year brought an increase in the number of patients, particularly during the winter months, and consequently in the number of visits paid by the nursing staff.

The classification represents a good deal of hard work and careful organisation on the part of the nursing staff. Much was done to increase the comfort of those patients being cared for in their own homes.

The shortage of fuel and high cost of bed-linen often added to the anxiety of the relatives during the winter and our loan of sick-room equipment and draw-sheets proved an invaluable help. The quilts which were issued by the W.V.S., through Councillor Miss C. E. Hazel, were much appreciated.

The shortage of full-time nurses persisted, probably due partly to the arduous nature of the work and partly to the opening up of other fields of opportunities for trained nurses. The experience of Miss Armitage and Mr. Ansell was of very considerable value and the young part-time nurses pulled their weight admirably.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

There is little to add to that stated in my last year's report under this heading, except that Mr. Keith Jones, who succeeded Miss Clarke as Honorary Secretary of the Voluntary Care Committee, ably followed the high standard set by his predecessor as witness, for instance, the extremely good result achieved from the sale of seals at the end of the year. Mr. A. F. Barker, the Treasurer, was also extremely helpful in making funds available to the Health Department for cases needing care and assistance. Such were his resources that other funds were available to him in cases where it was thought that the Voluntary Care Committee funds could not be used. The work was still being handicapped by our inability to appoint an Almoner or Social Worker, and we have really not yet started to more than scratch the surface of the work in this field. Nevertheless, a large number of families were helped during the year.

Home Help Scheme

Steady progress was made during the year with the expansion of the Home Help Scheme, and the appointment of Mrs. J. M. Day as Home Help Organiser greatly consolidated the scheme and resulted in rapid progress. At the end of the year 20 Home Helps were in employment and were dealing with about 50 households per week. In terms of hours, about 534 hours a week were given to this service.

The Home Help Service in conjunction with the Home Nursing Service is performing an invaluable function, and if it were not for these two services, which have expanded so much since 1948, the condition of many patients, particularly old people in their own homes, would be most serious. A large proportion of the patients dealt with under the Home Help Service are old and senile, and many undoubtedly ought to be in hospital if there were hospital beds available. On the other hand, many would prefer not to go into hospital and are more happy at home. This service, which is still expanding, is performing a vital social service in the community.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service has functioned smoothly throughout the year and there is little to report.

A new Standard Daimler Ambulance was delivered during the year and has been a valuable addition to our fleet.

Below are appended the details of the work during the year :

Number of patients removed to hospitals :

(a) Within the Borough	1,582
(b) Outside the Borough	229

Number of patients removed from hospitals to other addresses:

(a) Within the Borough	656
(b) Outside the Borough	146

Number of out-patients taken for treatment at hospitals :

(a) Within the Borough	3,003
(b) Outside the Borough	821

Number of street and works accidents	567
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Calls for gas and air apparatus	425
---	-----

Transfers from hospital to hospital	209
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Patients to and from nursing homes.. .. .	42
---	----

Other journeys	194
------------------------	-----

Total Journeys	<u>7,874</u>
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Total Mileage	<u>54,925</u>
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MENTAL HEALTH

Full particulars of this service have been given in the last two reports but the Ministry of Health have requested that information on similar lines should again be given.

1. Administration

- (a) The Mental Health Sub-Committee, the constitution of which is given on page 1, meets on the third Friday in the month with the exception of August. To this sub-committee has been delegated by the Health Committee all executive functions in regard to the Mental Health Services with the exception of the power to spend money and the making of appointments.
- (b) The Mental Health Sub-Committee employs a full-time Mental Health Visitor, and this work was very efficiently carried out by Miss E. K. Hunter and she has been succeeded by Miss E. M. Aplin, who is a qualified and experienced Social Worker with extensive knowledge of mental health work.

The Committee also employs a duly authorised officer who gives part of his time to these duties. Arrangements are in being for this officer's work to be performed by a deputy when he is on leave or otherwise not available.

The Committee also employs a part-time fully qualified psychiatric social worker for after-care work amongst patients discharged from mental hospitals. Mr. Terry gives the equivalent of about two days a week to this work.

- (c) Co-ordination with Hospital Management Committees.

Contact with hospitals in the district was maintained by means of representatives of the Health Committee being on the various Hospital Management Committees. Councillors Mrs. M. Evitts and Mrs. E. W. Grant represented the Health Committee on the St. Margaret's Hospital Management Committee, but there was no West Bromwich representative on the Hospital Management Committee covering St. Matthew's Hospital.

- (d) No duties were delegated to Voluntary Associations.
- (e) No arrangements have been made for the training of mental health visitors.

2. Work undertaken in the community

- (a) The work outlined in paragraph (c) above may be considered as coming under section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The procedure is as follows :

On receipt of a discharge notice from the mental hospital, a confidential letter is written by the Medical Officer of Health, both to the patient's private doctor and the patient himself, enquiring whether any help can be rendered by the Health Department. In the absence of any statement that no help is desired, particulars are sent to the psychiatric social worker who then visits regularly and makes a report. Thereafter cases discharged are visited regularly and all steps taken to prevent the patient's relapsing. A report on the work is made to the Mental Health Sub-Committee every two months when details of the action taken and results obtained are given. In these reports the patients are not referred to by name but remain anonymous.

Appended herewith is a report on the cases dealt with during 1950.

Total number of cases referred	..	..	..	49
				(male 27, female 22)

Age distribution	Under 20 years	..	..	4 cases
	20 — 30 years	..	..	8 cases
	30 — 40 years	..	..	8 cases
	40 — 50 years	..	..	9 cases
	50 — 60 years	..	..	9 cases
	60 — 70 years	..	..	9 cases
	Over 70 years	..	..	2 cases

Closed cases :

Case No.	Reason	Inter-views	Letters	Tele-phone
3	Died	14	5	—
6	Working	5	4	—
10	Unco-operative ..	7	6	—
11	Returned to hospital	28	7	8
12	Returned to hospital	16	8	2
15	Hospital	9	12	4
16	Stabilised	5	4	—
17	Stabilised	18	7	—
17a	Returned to hospital	3	2	2
18	Working	30	8	2

21	Working	..	..	7	4	—
22	Working	..	..	11	5	—
26	Removed	..	..	1	4	—
20	Hospital	..	..	4	4	1
28	Working	..	..	7	6	—
29	Removed	..	..	1	3	1
32	Hospital	..	..	3	7	4
33	Stabilised	..	..	12	1	1
35	Hospital	..	..	2	—	—
36	Stabilised	..	..	5	4	1
38	Hospital	..	..	5	2	2
39	Stabilised	..	..	8	7	2
41	Working	..	..	7	4	—
44	Working	..	..	5	3	—
46	Hospital	..	..	4	2	—
49	Working	..	..	2	2	1

Active cases :

1	..	..	..	..	6	4	1
5	..	..	..	..	18	5	—
14	..	..	..	..	11	10	8
19	..	..	..	..	15	7	3
24	..	..	..	..	15	7	2
27	..	..	..	..	10	11	2
30	..	..	..	..	15	6	1
31	..	..	..	..	7	4	2
34	..	..	..	..	12	6	1
37	..	..	..	..	9	5	1
40	..	..	..	..	8	10	—
42	..	..	..	..	15	7	2
45	..	..	..	..	6	4	—
47	..	..	..	..	4	4	3
48	..	..	..	..	5	4	—
50	..	..	..	..	5	4	—
51	..	..	..	..	6	4	—
52	..	..	..	..	9	3	1
53	..	..	..	..	7	3	1
54	..	..	..	..	5	2	—
55	..	..	..	..	3	2	—
56	..	..	..	..	6	4	—
57	..	..	..	..	2	2	—

The following may be noted as indicating the main types of service given :—

- (1) Support during the period of readjustment to normal life. This has been a very critical period in a number of cases.
- (2) Help in practical matters such as employment, national insurance, supplementary help from N.A.B. social contacts, home help.

- (3) Where further treatment has been desirable, encouraging patient to accept it and in some cases making the necessary arrangements.
 - (4) Where patients dependent on care of relatives to encourage them to give proper care.
 - (5) Where there is an emotional strain in the family some of the most important work is done in giving those concerned insight into the situation. Even where conscious understanding is not attained the worker may become a focal point for a new unity.
- (b) Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, the duly authorised officer is responsible for advising and assisting relations and doctors in the matter of admitting cases to mental hospitals. Appended are details of the number of cases dealt with in the year ended December, 1950 :—

Admissions :

	Male	Female	Total
Certified	10	22	32
Temporary patients	—	1	1
Urgency orders	1	2	3
14 day orders ..	1	1	2
3 day orders ..	1	—	1
Voluntary ..	32	19	51
	—	—	—
Total ..	45	45	90
	—	—	—

Discharges :

	Male	Female	Total
Certified	4	16	20
		(8 died)	
Urgency order ..	1	—	1
Voluntary patients	18	16	34
	(1 died)	(1 died)	
	—	—	—
Total ..	23	32	55
	—	—	—

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, duties are carried out by the Mental Health Officer who has had extensive experience of this work, particularly in this area.

(i) Twenty-nine new cases were referred from various sources during the year, as follows :—

Referred by local Education Authority	19
Referred by Doctors	3
Referred by social workers, relatives and others	7
	<hr/>
	29
	<hr/>

These cases were dealt with as follows :—

Certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts and admitted to hospitals ..	2
Admitted to Stallington Hall as a “ Place of Safety ”	1
Placed under statutory supervision ..	20
Placed under voluntary supervision ..	6
	<hr/>
	29
	<hr/>

The total number of mental defectives on the register at 31st December, 1950, was 401 :—

Under statutory supervision	157
Under voluntary supervision	40
In hospitals	204
	<hr/>
	401
	<hr/>

(ii) Supervision.

Twenty-six cases were added to and seven removed from the register during the year, making an increase of nineteen on the total for 1949.

About two-thirds of the defectives over sixteen years of age were gainfully employed, more than half of them working in the engineering and allied industries. The Juvenile Employment Officers co-operated with the Mental Health Officer in placing mental defectives in suitable employment. Efforts were made to place even low grade defectives but such as proved incapable of holding employment were granted maintenance allowances by the National Assistance Board.

Total number of defectives over 16 years of age	161
Total number of defectives under 16 years of age	36
	<hr/>
	197
	<hr/>
Defectives over 16 years of age in gainful employment	110
Defectives over 16 years of age in receipt of allowances from the N.A.B.	48
Defectives over 16 years of age maintained by parents	3
	<hr/>
	161
	<hr/>

The general behaviour of defectives under supervision was most satisfactory, there being only two convictions at Petty Sessional Courts during the year and in both cases the offenders were placed on probation.

(iii) Training.

Four West Bromwich mental defectives attended Occupational Centres at Tipton and Walsall. There were 33 trainable defectives under 16 years of age for whom no facilities were available. The Committee decided to proceed with the opening of an Occupational Centre as soon as circumstances permit and the Ministry of Health were approached for permission to erect a temporary building for this purpose.

(iv) Institution cases.

St Margaret's Hospital continued to admit the majority of West Bromwich patients needing institutional care, but a few cases had to be accommodated in other hospitals and at the end of the year there were 204 West Bromwich patients in various hospitals as follows :—

		Male	Female	Total
St Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	..	88	108	196
The Manor, Great Sutton, Wirral	..	—	2	2
Stallington Hall	..	—	1	1
Whittington Hall	..	—	1	1
Rampton State Insti- tution	.. ..	2	2	4
		—	—	—
		90	114	204
		—	—	—

- (v) Nineteen females and 16 male patients are on licence from St. Margaret's Hospital, 14 of the male patients being self-supporting, one receiving an allowance from the National Assistance Board and one being maintained by his parents. Eleven live with relatives in West Bromwich, four are doing farm work and living in agricultural hostels and one lives with relatives in Sussex.

Of the female patients on licence, 16 are in gainful employment, two are in receipt of allowances from St. Margaret's Hospital Management Committee and one receives a grant from the National Assistance Board. Fourteen are in resident domestic service and two are employed in factories.

All licence cases resident in West Bromwich were supervised by the Mental Health Officer. Those living in other districts were supervised by officers of the various local health authorities, but the West Bromwich officer kept in close touch with relatives in the locality.

REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER

G. J. S. LITTLEFIELD, L.D.S.

I regret that there has been no improvement in the staffing position so that the treatment of the expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children has followed the same lines as last year. Out of a total of 349 sessions, 73 were devoted to this work. There was a decrease in the number of expectant mothers referred to me for treatment and a great improvement was noticed in the condition of their mouths. Only a small number required so many extractions that dentures were necessary, of which 22 were supplied during the year compared with 50 in the previous year. Selected cases were referred for conservative and prophylactic treatment, but the number of broken appointments was so great that, again, the scheme had to be dropped to avoid further waste of time.

A total of 211 pre-school children were inspected and of this number 193 required treatment which included the extraction of 427 teeth under general anæsthesia.

Not included in the return is a small number of tuberculous patients from Heath Lane Hospital who were treated as emergencies or at the request of Dr. Cole, the Tuberculosis Officer. Their treatment did not materially interfere with the other work of the clinic.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Maternity, Medical and Nursing Staff of Hallam Hospital, and to the staff of the School Health Service, for their valuable help and co-operation during the year.

Appended are details of the dental service provided under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, during the year.

(a) Numbers provided with dental care.

<i>Patient</i>	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made dentally fit</i>
Expectant and nursing mothers	72	72	*86	75
Children under five ..	211	193	*195	†195

* Includes patients examined in 1949, but not treated until 1950.

† Treatment necessary at the time completed, but child not necessarily dentally sound.

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided.

<i>Patient</i>	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>Anæsthetics</i>		<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Scalings or scalings and gum treatment</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate treatment</i>	<i>Dressings</i>	<i>X-Rays</i>	<i>Dentures provided</i>	
		<i>Local</i>	<i>Gen- eral</i>						<i>Com- plete</i>	<i>Par- tial</i>
Expectant and nursing mothers	320	2	77	10	5	—	—	1	1 rep. 17	5
Children under five	427	1	193	6	—	—	2	—	—	—

Number of Sessions :

Hospital	..	..	..	23
Clinic	..	..	..	50

SUPERANNUATION MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned superannuation medical examinations were carried out during the year by the medical staff :

Number of examinations	..	..	72
Accepted .. ..	..	..	67
Deferred for re-examination	..	..	4
Rejected .. ..	..	..	1

HOUSING

There is little I can add to the account I gave in my last year's report. The housing situation in West Bromwich, so far as health is concerned, gives rise to a good deal of disquiet, but we continue to enjoy the help and co-operation of the Housing Department, especially in the rehousing of tuberculous cases.

During the year 51 Demolition Orders were obtained. At the end of the year 118 houses upon which Demolition or Closing Orders were operative were still being occupied. One hundred and twelve unfit houses were, in fact, demolished during the year. The total number of houses demolished in the Council Slum Clearance Programme now stands at :

Clearance Orders	..	..	..	1,857
Demolition Orders	..	..	..	626
				<hr/>
				2,483
				<hr/>

The number of new houses occupied in West Bromwich from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1950, were 376, and the types included were :

50	..	B.S.C.
311	..	Traditional type
15	..	Converted flats

MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH MATTERS

No use was made of the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This was not because there was no need to remove old people but because the procedure is so lengthy as to be virtually of no use. Three cases were dealt with by removal to hospital but they had to be dealt with as emergencies and it would have been impossible to have waited to operate Section 47. The removal of these old people was effected by a mixture of bluff and persuasion, and there can be no doubt at all that the action taken was greatly to their benefit.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1950

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing
Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report on the work carried out in my department for the year 1950.

The volume of the work carried out during the year has strained the capacity of the staff to the utmost.

Housing conditions continued a major problem and it is with pleasure I report the close co-operation of the Housing Manager in dealing with urgent rehousing cases from premises of a dangerous character.

The inspection of meat and foods, and food premises continued to occupy a considerable part of the time of the inspectorate, and a systematic inspection of all catering establishments and premises was undertaken during the year. The table, showing improvements effected at these premises, bears witness as to the progress of this work.

Owing to the difficulty of sending samples to the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, arrangements were made towards the end of the year for these samples to be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham. This arrangement will enable samples to be examined with the minimum of delay.

The problem of industrial nuisances (including atmospheric pollution) in an industrial town is always present, and requires constant attention. The alteration of plant, new processes or very often the use of new materials, often give rise to nuisances. It may take some time to locate, reduce, or find a solution. The department has been very active in dealing with industrial nuisances during the year.

Labour problems in connection with the Cleansing Services were again prominent and the department had great difficulty in maintaining an efficient service. The effect of the new housing estates is now being felt and creating a strain on the available manpower. The longer distances between site of bin and kerb will ultimately be reflected in higher costs for the collection services. The collection of salvage continued during the year.

My thanks are due to the whole of the staff for their loyal and continuous co-operation in dealing with the ever-increasing duties and responsibilities devolving on the department.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee my sincere thanks are due for their courtesy and support during the year, and to the Town Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health and other chief officers, I am indebted for their help and advice.

W. W. FOAKES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector,
Superintendent Refuse
Removal and Disposal.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 15,733. This total was less than that for the previous year but may be regarded as satisfactory, especially as there was an increase in the number of food premises inspected. When inspecting food premises, considerable time is spent by the inspectorate in examining methods of food preparation, and explaining the precautions to be adopted in the handling and preparation of food to personnel engaged on this work.

Details of the inspections are included in the following table :

Special Housing Inspections	479
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc.	1,306
Miscellaneous Inspections	4,344
Re-inspections	4,393
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	16
Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in- Lodgings	26
Factories	129
Shops and Food Premises	2,838
Bakehouses	38
Dairies	138
Food and Drugs Act visits	555
Atmospheric Pollution	171
Slaughterhouses (including Cottagers' Pigs)	888
Fumigation	320
Smoke Observations	92
	<hr/> 15,733 <hr/>

Complaints Received

Six hundred and twelve complaints were received and recorded during the year at the Sanitary Department, as compared with 815 in 1949. Complaints made to the Inspectors on their districts are not included.

Notices Served

There was a reduction in the number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year. An appeal by the owner of a house against a notice requiring him to provide a dustbin was heard before the Stipendiary Magistrate in February and was successful, with the result that no further Statutory Notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served by the Corporation upon the owners of dwellinghouses. This decision was reflected in the reduction in the number of Statutory Notices served. The total number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, was 1,046, consisting of 873 informal notices and 173 Statutory notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,524.

Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of the service of notices 1,883 improvements were effected, this number being smaller than that for the previous year.

The number of houses repaired is less than the number for the previous year, but this is due to the difficulties in obtaining materials, and the high cost of repairs to property. It must be pointed out, however, that 51 Demolition Orders were made during the year in connection with properties which were so dangerous and dilapidated as to prevent any further repairs being executed to them.

There is, in addition, a large number of unfit houses which require demolition as soon as the housing position will permit. Every effort has been made to improve the conditions under which people are living in these houses, but owing to their dilapidated and worn-out condition, demolition is the real solution to this problem.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

Interiors of Houses

Houses cleansed or redecorated ..	9
Repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork carried out	375
Ventilation provided or improved ..	149
Flooded cellars drained or filled in ..	5

Exteriors of Houses

Damp external walls — brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material or damp-proof courses inserted	62
Defective roofs made weathertight ..	259
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed	99
Chimneys repaired or repointed ..	34

Yards, Outbuildings and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings cleansed and repaired ..	300
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired	25
Dangerous wells or cisterns abolished or suitable covers provided ..	20
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired	9
Dangerous boundary walls repaired ..	6

Water Supply

Insufficient water supply—remedied ..	10
---------------------------------------	----

Drainage

Defective drainage relaid or repaired	14
Choked drainage opened and cleansed	117

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional water closets provided ..	5
Water closets repaired	51
Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed	51
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied	18
Privies abolished or converted to water closets	4
Defective dustbins renewed	53
Waste water closets converted ..	4

Offensive Accumulations

Accumulations removed	7
-----------------------------	---

Factories and Workshops

Additional water closet accommodation provided or existing accommodation improved	18
---	----

Food Premises

Cleansed, repaired or improved ..	173
-----------------------------------	-----

Miscellaneous	6
-----------------------	---

1,883

Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936

Summonses were issued in nine instances, and in each case the summons was withdrawn on the completion of the work and the payment of costs. The details of the summonses issued are as under :

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Acts or By-laws under which proceedings were instituted</i>	<i>Result</i>
48, Ebenezer Street	Dilapidated house	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	Costs 4/-
48, King Street	do.	do.	Costs 12/-
60, Railway Street	do.	do.	Costs 25/-
250, 252, 254 and 258 Whitehall Road	Dilapidated houses	do.	Costs 8/-
268 and 270 Whitehall Road	do.	do.	
34, 36, 38, 40 and 40a, Lloyd Street	do.	do.	Costs 13/6
42, 46 and 48 Lloyd Street	do.	do.	
42, 44, 46 and 48, Lloyd Street	do.	do.	
195 and 197, Sandwell Road	do.	do.	Costs 4/-

Common Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in-Lodgings

The Common Lodging House in Spon Lane was regularly inspected during the year, but considerable difficulty was experienced regarding the keeping of these premises in a proper condition.

The number of houses registered as Houses-let-in-Lodgings is now five. These houses are always a source of considerable trouble and regular inspections have been made to see that the conditions do not deteriorate.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are eight cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, all of which have been regularly inspected and have been well maintained.

Factories Act, 1937

One hundred and twenty-nine inspections were made of factories during the year, and 33 notices were served. The following table gives details of the action taken in these cases :

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ..	6	3
Defective sanitary accommodation ..	23	15
Not separate accommodation for sexes	4	3

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The above Act came into operation on 31st March, 1950, and on that date the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, was repealed. The new Act greatly strengthens the powers of Local Authorities in connection with the control of infestations.

The usual routine inspection of 10% of the sewers in the Borough was carried out. Manholes were test baited, and of the 159 manholes so treated, in only nine were there complete "takes." These takes occurred at points where buildings had been demolished and lengths of old drains had not been sealed up.

Complaints having been received regarding the presence of rats on a housing estate nearing completion, a complete examination was made of the sewers on this estate with the result that at two points rats were found. These were dealt with satisfactorily and no further complaints were received.

During the year, a total of 215 complaints were received regarding infestations of rats, and a total of 3,326 baits were laid at premises which comprised 41 business premises and 174 private dwelling houses.

As in previous years, all the Corporation tips were examined for the presence of rats, and where any infestations were found baits were laid.

Disinfection

One hundred and eighteen premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease. The bedding from infectious disease cases, formerly disinfected at the Isolation Hospital was, by arrangement, transferred to the Sanitary Department and the disinfection of such bedding is now undertaken at the disinfector at the Black Lake Works.

Disinfestation

At the request of the Housing Department, furniture from houses where there was evidence of bug infestation was treated with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas (Cyanosorb) before delivery to Council houses. 176 van loads of furniture were treated during the year, and in addition the disinfestation of 58 houses was carried out by the use of insecticide sprays containing D.D.T.

A large number of complaints was received in connection with infestations of cockroaches in houses on Corporation estates. Arrangements were made with the Housing Department for part of the living-room floors to be taken up. D.D.T. generators were placed in the under-floor cavity and all rooms on the ground floor were sealed. After the rooms were opened up the under-floor cavity was liberally sprayed with Gammexane powder by means of a rotary blower.

This treatment proved very effective and the following table gives the results after one month and three months from the time of treatment.

<i>Houses</i>	<i>Type of Infestation</i>				<i>Evidence of Infestation after</i>		
	<i>Slight</i>	<i>Mod- erate</i>	<i>Heavy</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One month</i>		<i>Three months</i>
					<i>Slight</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One seen occasionally</i>
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Houses</i>
Block of 4 houses	1	1	2	2	2	3	1
" 2 "	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
" 6 "	2	1	3	2	4	5	1
" 2 "	—	1	1	—	2	2	—
" 4 "	2	1	1	3	1	4	—
" 8 "	4	2	2	5	3	7	1
" 4 "	3	1	—	4	—	4	—
" 2 "	2	—	—	2	—	2	—
" 2 "	—	—	2	1	1	2	—

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

During the year a total of 92 observations of smoke emissions from factory chimneys was made. In addition, investigations were also carried out with regard to grit emissions and the emission of effluvia from works. There was a recurrence of an offensive smell from a works in a neighbouring Borough, and this was reported to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector. This nuisance appeared to have been reduced towards the end of the year.

Complaints were also dealt with concerning :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Complaint</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Chemical Works ..	Emission of Sulphur Dioxide.	Neutralising plant installed.
Smelting Works ..	Emission of Zinc Oxide.	Defective collecting duct-pipes renewed.
Wire Works ..	Fumes from acid pickling vats in open air.	Requested that vats (in works) be enclosed.
Brass Foundry ..	Emission of metallic grit from grinding machines due to defective and improperly sealed ducts.	New metal ducts installed in place of brick ducts.
Spring Works ..	Fumes from oil-tempering vats.	Hoods installed over vats with extraction fan to collect.
Screw Cap Mfrs. ..	Emission of fumes from enamelling ovens.	Advised re collection and treatment of fumes before entering atmosphere (not abated in 1950).
Chemical Works ..	Emission of methalamine at various times.	Leaking pipe-lines repaired, scrubber cleaned, etc.
Aluminium Foundry	Grit from cupola ..	New cupola erected with spark and grit arrester attachments.
Iron Foundry ..	Grit emission from cyclone.	Inlet re-arranged to discharge to water seal.
Drop Forgers..	Grit emission from forges.	Cowls fitted — no further complaint.
General Warehouse ..	Emission of burned paper from incinerator.	Cowl and baffle fitted. Orders to refrain from burning paper when likely to be a nuisance.
Tube Works ..	Smoke from heating apparatus stove.	Instructed re firing—ceased firing with oily rags. Coke-fired instead of coal.
Oil Refiners ..	Smoke from vertical boiler.	Ceased burning oil waste which was causing smoke.
Timber Merchants ..	Smoke from sawdust etc., incinerator under cyclone — renewed complaint	Further instructions given re by-passing of shavings and resinous woods which cause smoke.
Paint Works ..	Dust from chemicals used in vats preparing varnish.	Suitable arrangements made to filter. No further complaints.
Spring Works ..	Emission of burned paper from stack over paper incinerator.	Suitable baffles provided in flue.
Laundry ..	Emission of smoke from stack of boiler.	Suitable fuel made available after representations to Ministry of Fuel.
Bakery ..	Emission of smoke from stack.	Staff instructed re firing. Ovens given longer time interval to become heated to suitable temperature.
Pickling Plant ..	Emission of smoke from stack to vertical boiler.	Advice given as to method of stoking.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Complaint</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Sheet Rolling and Annealing.	Emission of smoke from chimneys of furnaces.	Flues repaired. Advice given to stokers. Annealing process discontinued.
Brickworks	Smoke nuisance from chimneys of furnaces.	Representations made, and advice given, to management.
Tube Works	Smoke nuisance from chimney of vertical boiler.	Representations to management and to the Ministry of Fuel Advisory Council.
Public Tips (two) ..	Fumes and smoke from tips.	Tips relavelled and covered. Fires extinguished.
Smelting Works	Emission of dense black smoke from smelting of brass and copper swarf.	Bales of swarf treated for elimination of oil before smelting.
Tar Works	Emission of black smoke.	Furnaces and flues rebuilt and remodelled.

Atmospheric Gauges

Four deposit gauges are in general use for collecting deposited matter from the atmosphere and eight lead peroxide gauges for determining the amount of sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere are in use.

The following table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges showing deposited matter in tons per square mile :

<i>Month</i>	<i>Baths</i>	<i>G. Salter School</i>	<i>M.E.B.</i>	<i>Isolation Hospital</i>
January	22.36	18.63	23.64	17.87
February	27.5	27.19	32.26	—
March	21.73	23.00	23.96	16.45
April	18.83	24.30	24.49	17.96
May	19.67	21.18	17.94	12.5
June	17.01	21.92	24.48	16.52
July	17.54	14.99	22.5	15.04
August	18.27	14.77	19.75	13.00
September	16.16	14.92	23.59	13.72
October	18.04	15.98	23.23	14.27
November	22.41	24.2	31.28	19.16
December	19.6	21.72	18.82	12.54
Total deposit p.a.	239.12	242.80	285.94	169.03
Monthly Av's. 1949	21.00	20.09	24.8	16.37
1950	19.93	20.23	23.83	15.36

The deposit gauges have been in operation for two years on their present sites, and the average readings for the whole Borough, in tons per square mile, are :

1949

..

20.56

1950

..

19.80

The fact that there appears to be a diminution in the amount of pollution must not be viewed too optimistically. The vagaries of the weather play an important part in the amount of impurities in the atmosphere. The situation of this town is such that it must inevitably receive pollution from adjoining industrial areas. This is borne out by the fact that during the year the direction of the wind was — from the south-west on 97 days ; from the west on 78 days ; and from the south on 55 days.

The heaviest deposits were recorded at Black Lake and the lightest at the Isolation Hospital.

Lead Peroxide Gauges — Record of Sulphur Pollution

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO³) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is shown in the following table :

<i>Month</i>		<i>Kenrick Park</i>	<i>Public Baths</i>	<i>G. Salter Schools</i>	<i>M.E.B.</i>	<i>Havills Hawthorne</i>	<i>Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Ray Hall</i>	<i>Red House Park</i>
January	..	3.71	2.16	2.64	2.95	2.84	2.73	2.23	2.23
February	..	3.93	2.23	2.55	2.8	2.53	2.74	2.13	1.63
March	..	2.25	2.18	2.54	2.31	2.26	2.92	2.04	1.64
April	..	1.83	1.46	1.49	1.63	1.53	1.49	.69	1.11
May	..	1.58	1.19	1.43	1.69	1.59	1.36	.95	.94
June	..	1.87	.89	1.06	1.47	2.23	1.46	.86	.59
July	..	1.71	.75	1.05	1.3	1.09	1.2	.86	.56
August	..	.88	.96	1.21	1.36	1.85	1.1	.68	.44
September	..	1.19	1.11	1.44	1.81	1.46	1.79	1.26	.67
October	..	3.04	2.16	2.18	2.47	2.33	2.29	1.8	1.16
November	..	3.37	2.36	2.18	2.97	3.18	3.03	2.27	1.77
December	..	3.4	1.26	2.51	2.62	3.08	2.96	2.44	1.94
Monthly	1949	2.51	1.54	1.82	2.1	2.41	1.87	1.49	1.2
Averages :	1950	2.39	1.56	1.86	2.12	2.16	2.09	1.52	1.22

The average for the year for the whole of the town, expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day, was :

1949

..

1.84

1950

..

1.86

Owing to complaints regarding the emission of sulphur fumes from a factory, four lead peroxide gauges were established around the factory. The following table gives the results of the observations for four months :

<i>Month</i>	<i>Control</i>	<i>Station 1</i>	<i>Station 2</i>	<i>Station 3</i>
September ..	1.68	2.12	2.22	1.2
October	1.47	1.89	2.27	1.59
November ..	2.26	1.77	1.91	2.17
December	2.49	2.52	2.64	1.95
Monthly Average..	1.97	2.07	2.26	1.73

Since the establishment of these gauges there has been no excessive emission of sulphur fumes, the monthly average being 2.00 compared with 1.86 for the whole of the Borough.

Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year.

Bacteriological examinations were made of 30 samples of water, the results being as under :

	Number	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
From wells and springs ..	1	—	1
From South Staffs. Water Co.	10	10	—
From City of Birmingham supply	8	8	—

The unsatisfactory sample was taken from a deep well, and precautionary measures were advised for the time being.

Ten samples of water were taken from the Public Baths, and one from the Paddling Pool. Four of the samples taken from the Baths and the one from the Paddling Pool were unsatisfactory.

One of the samples obtained from the City of Birmingham supply showed that whilst the water was chemically of excellent quality, it had some action on a freshly exposed lead surface after 24 and 48 hours. There was no lead in the sample when received. In all, ten samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and details of the results of the analysis of the last sample by the Public Analyst are as follows :

						Results expressed in parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0·0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	..	0·0024
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	..	6·4
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	0·11
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours	..	..	..	..	..	0·040
Total solids dried at 100 deg. C.	..	..	..	..	..	30
Nitrite	..	..	..	..	..	Trace
pH	..	..	..	..	..	—
Free Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	—
Appearance — Bright, few small particles.						

The number of dwellinghouses and the population supplied with water from the mains is as under :

		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
(a)	Direct to houses	.. 20,440	77,226	89·34%
(b)	Houses sharing standpipes	791	2,967	3·43%
(c)	Houses sharing common taps	.. .. 1,664	6,240	7·23%

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Meat Inspection

The three slaughterhouses in the Borough were engaged full-time during the year and a total of 13,780 pigs were slaughtered. All the carcasses were inspected before removal and a total of 638 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses for this purpose. As in past years a considerable number of inspections had to be made outside office hours and on Sundays owing to the irregular delivery of pigs.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of disease found among carcasses slaughtered. Compared with last year there was an increase in the number of carcasses affected with tuberculosis and other diseases.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle exclu- ding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	13,780
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	13,780
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	434
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	3.21
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	533
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	4.0

Cottagers' Pigs

During the year, 250 notifications were received of the intended slaughter of Cottagers' Pigs. The number of pigs concerned was 271 and in each case the carcass was inspected.

Conveyance of Food

The handling of meat by transport employees still leaves room for improvement, although greater use of head covering by the employees when carrying meat is now being made.

The new Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food came into operation on 2nd October, 1950. It is too early to report on the effect of these Byelaws. The attention of roundsmen delivering bread from vans has had to be drawn to the contents of such Byelaws and cautions have been administered. The compulsory wrapping before sale appears to be the only solution where bread is concerned, particularly as one sees loaves of bread (unwrapped) left by roundsmen on doorsteps, window-sills and in other places where occupiers are out. Owing to the large number of housewives now absorbed into industry, this practice appears to be on the increase.

Inspection of Premises where Food is Prepared, Stored or Sold

During the year a total of 2,838 visits was made to food premises. This total, however, gives no indication of the amount of time spent on this very important work. It is not only necessary to see that the premises are hygienic and comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Byelaws, but also to instruct the occupiers and workers in the principles to be adopted in order to ensure a clean and safe food supply.

The inspection of licensed premises continued during the year. Deficiencies in relation to the standards required under the Food and Drugs Act were observed in some instances and notices sent where required.

Two complete new bakehouses were erected during the year, one of which replaced a bakehouse which had been a source of trouble for several years.

The advice and assistance of the department was requested by a firm of bakers for the disinfestation of their premises from cockroaches and a firm of grocers elicited advice and assistance in connection with an infestation of " mites " in screenings.

A fried fish shop situated in very old premises was remodelled and modernised to comply with the latest standards.

Potted, Pressed and Preserved Food

One application was received in connection with the manufacture of potted, pressed and preserved food. The premises were satisfactory and the application for registration granted.

An application for the registration of a fried fish business was refused as the premises were unsatisfactory and did not comply with the standards required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table gives particulars of improvements effected at food premises :

<i>Nature of Improvement</i>	<i>Number of Premises</i>				
	<i>Public Houses</i>	<i>Cafes</i>	<i>Fried Fish Shops</i>	<i>Bake houses</i>	<i>Shops and food preparing rooms</i>
Provision of hot water	18	4	5	2	14
Provision of cold water	2	2	2	—	2
Provision of sinks, wash basins, etc. ..	4	2	2	—	4
Provision of bathrooms etc., for tenants ..	1	—	—	—	—
Re decoration ..	7	—	3	1	5
Provision of proper drainage or improve ment of existing drainage (to sinks, wash ups, etc.) ..	9	2	3	—	—
Repairs to walls, etc. (plastering, etc.) ..	1	3	4	2	5
Lighting provided or improved	—	—	1	—	—
Sanitary accommoda tion repaired, clean- sed, re-decorated, im- proved or additional accommodation pro- vided	18	1	—	—	—
Reconstruction of en- tire premises (includ- ing provision of hot water, etc.) ..	—	—	—	2	—
Conversion of premises from other use (pro- vision of hot water, sinks, decoration, etc.)	—	2	—	—	—

CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The inspection of food, other than meat, occupies a considerable part of the Inspectors' time, as the following table giving the classification of foods condemned will show :

				Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	4	7	3	3
Bacon	..	..	..		2	0	12
Sausage	..	..	..			1	12
Frozen Beef	..	..	..		2	0	22
Lamb	..	..	..				11
				4	12	3	4
Wet Fish	..	..	..		1	0	18
Shell Fish	..	..	..				10
Tinned Fish	..	..	..		13	0	8
					14	1	8
Cheese	..	..	..		1	3	0
Sweet Confectionery	..	..	..		1	0	4
Plum Puddings	..	..	..		9	0	12
Eggs	..	..	..			2	9
Dried Fruit	..	..	..			1	7
					12	3	4
Canned Goods :							
Peas	..	..	..		4	2	2
Tomatoes	..	..	..		10	2	3
Beans	..	..	..		1	0	7
Beetroot	..	..	..		1	2	16
Carrots	..	..	..			1	14
					18	0	14
Milk	..	..	..		6	2	1
Meat	..	..	..		7	0	26
Soup	..	..	..		1	0	26
Miscellaneous Goods					1	0	17
					9	2	13

			Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Apricots	..	..		1	3	6
Cherries	..	..			2	10
Apples	..	..		2	0	19
Gooseberries	..	..		6	2	17
Pineapples	..	..				16
Peaches	..	..			3	8
Pears	..	..			1	4
Damsons	..	..		1	3	19
Strawberries	..	..				17
Plums	..	..		4	1	16
Jam	..	..		1	1	16
			1	0	1	8
Total	..	..	8	14	1	24

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the sale and manufacture of ice cream. This figure is the same as for last year, as no applications were received for the manufacture of ice cream.

During the year, thirty applications were received for the sale only of ice cream and the number of such premises now on the register is 108. In addition, one application was received from premises which were unsatisfactory and the application was withdrawn.

Regular inspections were made of all premises selling ice cream, but in the majority of cases ice cream is only sold at the weekend.

All of the ice cream samples taken for bacteriological examination were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, but owing to the distance involved there was difficulty in forwarding the samples and only 34 were taken during the year.

The results of the analyses of these samples was as under :

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
14	6	2	12

Eight of the 12 samples placed in Grade IV were manufactured outside the Borough. Appropriate action was taken when the sample was below Grade II.

Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream. The plant has been regularly inspected throughout the year.

Milk Supply

Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949

So far, this Borough has not been designated as a " specified area " within the meaning of the above Act, but it is satisfactory to report that practically the whole of the milk supplied in the town is heat-treated.

Milk (Special Designation), (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 15.

Milk (Special Designation), (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

During the year 16 dealers were registered under these Regulations, as were also one Pasteurising and two Sterilising Plants.

All samples taken from the Pasteurising and Sterilising plants during the year were satisfactory.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Stafford, in the collection of samples by their motor van. Owing to breakdowns it was not always possible to submit samples when arrangements had been made for their collection.

At the end of the year arrangements were made for all future samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination to be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. This laboratory is more easily accessible than the one at Stafford.

From the table of samples below it will be seen that the percentage of samples failing the methylene blue test was 3·6%. This result compared very favourably with that of the previous year when 30% of the samples failed the requisite test.

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>Number of Samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Number of Samples</i>	
		<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
Pasteurised	42	41	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	5	5	—
Undesignated	8	7	1
Totals	55	53	2

Heat Treated Milk

73 samples of heat treated milk were taken during the year, and all samples satisfactorily passed the requisite tests.

Biological Examination of Milk

26 samples of milk were taken and submitted for the biological test. These samples were taken from farms in the Borough and all proved negative.

Chemical Examination of Milk

65 samples of milk were taken for chemical analysis during the year and it is interesting, in view of the alleged decline in the quality of milk, that the average fat content was 3·59, and solids-not-fat 8·66. The highest fat content was 5·1 and the lowest 2·8.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year, 274 samples of food and drugs comprising 65 formal and 209 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The quarterly details of the results of these samples are given in the following table :

		<i>Samples Analysed</i>		<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
		<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>
1st Quarter	..	15	52	15	50	—	2
2nd Quarter	..	17	49	17	47	—	2
3rd Quarter	..	18	50	18	47	—	3
4th Quarter	..	15	58	15	54	—	4
Total..	..	65	209	65	198	—	11

The following table shows the action taken regarding the 11 samples certified as unsatisfactory or adulterated :

List of Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples of Food and Drugs

<i>Description of Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Indian Brandee Sample No. 516 (Informal)	Deficient of 29% of Sodium Citrate	Manufacturers cautioned. Error in calculation of formula.
Chew Mint Sample No. 565 (Informal)	Contained 82.5% of hard Paraffin	Not a food. Ministry of Food informed of result of analysis.
Zinc Starch and Boracic Powder Sample No. 591 (Informal)	Deficiency of 32.6% of Zinc Oxide and 30% of Boric Acid	Manufacturers cautioned. New labels issued to comply with new B.P. Codex.
Vantas Fruit Drink Sample No. 604 (Informal)	Contained only 3.17 ozs. of sugar per 10 gallons instead of 18 ozs.	Retailer warned. (To be consumed on the premises in accordance with the Soft Drinks Order.
Hiera Picra Pills Sample No. 645 (Informal)	Label unsatisfactory	Manufacturers warned. New labels issued. Stock withdrawn for re-labeling.
Soda Water Sample No. 647 (Informal)	Deficient of 10% of Sodium Bicarbonate	Manufacturers warned.
Infirmery Syrup Sample No. 708 (Informal)	Excess of 1.73% of Acetic Acid	Manufacturers warned. New labels issued. Old stock withdrawn.
Chitterlings Sample No. 724 (Informal)	Containing 1.5% of extraneous matter consisting of partially digested husk of cereals.	Fined £5 with 30/- costs.
Chitterlings Sample No. 725 (Informal)	Contained 1.14% of extraneous matter consisting of partially digested husk of cereals	Fined £5.
Soda Mint (Sample No. 746 (Informal)	Deficient of 78% of Ammonium Bicarbonate	Stock exhausted. No further samples obtainable.
French Cherries Sample No. 727 (Informal)	Contained free Sulphuretted Hydrogen	Unsaleable owing to smell and taste. Withdrawn from sale.

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples calculated on all samples taken was 4.01%.

Comparison of adulteration with previous years gives the following results :

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
7.86%	7.03%	10.305%	9.09%	4.01%

This comparison shows an appreciable reduction of adulteration to the previous years.

Legal Proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Result</i>
Selling chitterlings unfit for human consumption	Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Fined £5 and 30/ special costs.
Exposing for sale chitterlings which were unfit for human consumption	Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	Fined £5.

Chitterlings which had not been properly cleaned were exposed for sale in a shop and also sold to a customer. The chitterlings were seized, taken before a Magistrate and condemned as being unfit for human consumption. The vendor was summoned at the Local Magistrate's Court and a fine administered in both cases.

A bottle of sterilised milk sold to a customer, was later brought to the Sanitary Department where it was found to contain extraneous matter. The milk was seized, submitted to a Magistrate who condemned same as being unfit for human consumption, and an order was made for its destruction. The Dairy Company concerned appeared before the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee and were cautioned.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Eleven samples of fertilisers were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. Six samples were satisfactory and complied with the "statutory statement" and appropriate action was taken in each case in respect of the five unsatisfactory samples.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 65 names entered on the List of Persons entitled to sell poisonous substances listed in Part II of the Poisons List. In each case, the premises were visited before the entry of the name on the List.

Rag Flock Act

There is one rag flock factory in the Borough and one sample taken from the works complied with the required standard.

Public Conveniences

Consideration was given during the year to the provision of additional Public Conveniences. Sites were obtained at Stone Cross and Hill Top and approval was received for the erection of these Conveniences.

The one at Hill Top will be erected near a bus-stop on the main road.

Surveys were also made in the Carters Green and Friar Park areas with a view to obtaining sites for Conveniences in these localities. There is a very urgent demand for the provision of a Public Convenience at Carters Green and the acquisition of a site seemed to be in a fair way to being solved at the end of the year.

Severe damage, usually perpetrated during the weekends, is repeatedly being caused to the unattended Conveniences in the Borough by hooligans. Complaints were received of nuisances being committed in disused shelters and in most cases the entrances to the shelters were bricked up.

At the end of the year there were three attended and twelve unattended Public Conveniences in the Borough.

Public Cleansing

Difficulty has again been experienced in replacing labour to carry out refuse collection, particularly in view of the competition offered by the more congenial work in factories. Towards the end of the year many men were absent through sickness—the outbreak of influenza having its effect upon the department. Constant efforts were made to recruit labour but without success.

An appeal against a notice requiring the provision of a dustbin was heard at the Magistrate's Court, West Bromwich, in February, and had the effect of causing reluctance on the part of landlords to replace worn-out dustbins to their property. This lack of receptacles for house refuse due to this cause militated against refuse collection, as it became necessary, in many properties, for the collectors to have to shovel the refuse from the floor and carry it to the vehicle, with the resultant delay in collection.

As, due to their age, a number of lorries engaged on refuse collection were becoming beyond repair, replacements were considered, and towards the end of the year demonstrations were carried out in the Borough with a new type of lorry. It is hoped that the replacement of the aged vehicles will take place during the ensuing year, when it will also become necessary to realign the districts.

The number of vehicles engaged exclusively on refuse collection was 12, consisting of four " Lewin " Refuse Compressors, and eight side-loading lorries.

I would once again like to thank the Transport Manager (Mr. A. Witcomb Smith) and his staff for their help and co-operation in the maintenance of the vehicles during the past year.

Refuse Disposal

All trade refuse is received at the Black Lake works and destroyed by incineration. House refuse is tipped at the Heath Lane and Hamstead tips.

In October a " Calf-Dozer " was purchased and put into operation on the Heath Lane tip. This machine enabled the work to be carried out more efficiently, improved the appearance and consolidation of the tip and provided greater facilities for the salvaging of waste and dormant materials.

Salvage

A separate collection of waste paper was maintained during the year.

At the beginning of the year, prices obtained for waste paper and cardboard were very low but improved later and an extra van was put into commission on this work. In certain parts of the Borough house-to-house collection of waste paper was instituted. Two large furniture vans are engaged on this work.

The tonnage of salvage collected was the lowest for some years. The increased prices have, however, enabled a greater impetus to be given to the collection and marketing of salvable materials and there is no doubt that the figures for the coming year will show a marked improvement.

The Direction on the collection of kitchen waste continued during the year and all kitchen waste was, by this Direction, delivered to Messrs. Normansells, Tipton.

Cesspools

There are 60 cesspools within the Borough and these are emptied regularly by an Eagle 500-gallon Cesspool Emptier.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	23,530
Total number of loads of refuse collected ..	14,940
Total tonnage of refuse collected	28,201
Total tonnage of nightsoil collected	57
Total tonnage collected from cesspools ..	2,335
Gross cost of collection	£34,008
Gross cost of disposal	£6,153
Gross cost per ton of collection	£1 4s. 1·42d.
Gross cost per ton of disposal	4s. 4·36d.
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	£1 8s. 5·78d.
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton	£1 5s. 11·21d.
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	£425 4s. 5·02d.
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premises per annum	£1 11s. 0·99d.

Output of Refuse per annum (excluding Cesspool Contents)

<i>Output</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>	<i>1950</i>
Per 1,000 of population ..	260·15 tons	271·08 tons	272·86 tons	300·77 tons
Per house ..	19·72 cwts.	20·46 cwts.	20·16 cwts.	21·99 cwts.

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and income received was as follows :

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ..	247	0	2	1,377	12	11
Baled Ferrous Scrap	68	1	3	154	2	1
Black Scrap	10	3	0	13	14	3
Non Ferrous Scrap ..		10	1	37	19	10
Textiles	5	3	0	86	5	0
Bottles and Jars ..	1	0	0	3	8	0
Bones	2	0	2	11	2	11
Kitchen Waste ..	546	10	1	1,483	19	6
	880	9	1	£3,168	4	6

The totals of salvage collected and income received from 1940 to 1950 were as under :

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
1940	938	1	0	2,485	4	9
1941	983	13	3	3,298	13	10
1942	1,281	7	2	5,313	11	9
1943	1,733	3	2	5,616	3	10
1944	1,587	14	0	4,619	12	1
1945	1,307	2	0	3,807	2	1
1946	1,430	6	0	4,750	16	4
1947	1,415	13	2	4,596	15	1
1948	1,383	16	1	4,894	0	2
1949	1,139	11	2	4,622	15	6
1950	880	9	1	3,168	4	6
	14,080	18	1	£47,172	19	11

